

February 7, 1990

LB 902, 940

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: It is advanced. LB 902.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB 902 was introduced by Senator Hall. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 3rd, referred to Transportation Committee, which reports the bill to General File.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Senator Hall, please.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, members. LB 902 was a bill that was brought to me by members of the hearing impaired community. It would allow for a sticker, to be purchased from the Commission for the Hearing Impaired, that an individual who operated a motor vehicle could place in their driver's side window so that if a...they were stopped by a police officer, someone in the...either the safety division, someone who was an officer, State Patrol, whatever, they would be able to then know that that individual who was operating that vehicle was, in fact, hearing impaired. But the sticker itself would be vague enough that the general public would not know what it meant. I introduced this bill knowing that some folks in the hearing impaired community were not in favor of it. There were many individuals, specifically the family members of those who it would apply to, who asked that the bill be introduced. There has been some controversy about it since it was advanced out of committee. I think all of you received a letter from members who are on the Commission for the Hearing Impaired that they feel it could prove to be discriminatory and that it could lead to harassment should this symbol be required to be placed on the vehicle. The requirement is not there. It is clearly a voluntary measure, one that, as I said, was requested. I would only ask at this time that you advance the bill to Select File, because clearly there is some concern. I have carried a number of bills to promote, help, encourage and continue to help educate in the area of the hearing impaired. It is not my intent, nor was it ever through the introduction of 902, to hamper to or to cause any problem for that community that I have supported in the short time I've been here. So I think there is clearly a misunderstanding, at least on my part, as to the effects of the bill. I would like to have it advanced over to Select File. I will sit down in the meantime and talk to those